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**PATRICK-MURRAY ADMINISTRATION ANNOUNCES NEW
WORKPLACE SAFETY GRANTS FOR MASS.**

SPRINGFIELD—August 17, 2007—Secretary of Labor and Workforce Development Suzanne M. Bump today announced 43 statewide Occupational Safety and Health grant awards for FY08 totaling \$800,000.

Joined by Director of Labor George Noel, Business Manager of International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local 7 of Western Massachusetts Daniel D'Alma as well as area legislators and labor leaders, Bump noted that any company that pays worker's compensation is eligible to receive Department of Industrial Accident grant funds of up to \$25,000 per year to develop and implement workplace safety training for employees. The Occupational Safety and Health grants are administered by the Department of Industrial Accidents, which is led by Commissioner Paul Buckley.

"Most workplace injuries and illnesses are often preventable," said Bump. "These grants provide employers and workers with good defense against injuries and illnesses through health and safety training that can make a difference as to whether someone is injured on the job—or not."

Training can encompass a wide range of areas that will improve the safety of a workplace, including ergonomics, handling of hazardous materials, and proper heavy lifting techniques.

"Local 7 IBEW has realized the value of safety training for over 114 years. This grant will make available the required training for our members to remain the safest and most productive electrical workers in Western Massachusetts," said Dan D'Alma, Business Manager for IBEW Local 7.

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Springfield area grant recipients for FY08 include:

- **Springfield JATC, Springfield \$22,374** to train 298 new apprentices and journey men and women in OSHA regulations, disaster response, fire/electrical safety and injury prevention.
- **Western Mass COSH, Springfield \$1,332** to train 20 new apprentices and journey men and women in Right to Know/ Hazard Communication, heavy equipment handling/driver safety and chemical ER and injury prevention.
- **Hasbro North America, East Longmeadow.** \$24,652 to train 900 employees in injury prevention and ergonomics.
- **City of Westfield** \$15,873 to train 65 employees in injury prevention, right to know, ergonomics, fire/electrical safety, toxins, lead hazards and asbestos safety.

Bump also acknowledge the Town of West Springfield, which received a grant in FY07 for \$4,436 to train 200 employees in right to know/hazard communication and work zone safety and safety/injury prevention.

“DIA safety grants have trained 376,000 Massachusetts workers since 1991,” said DIA Commissioner Paul Buckley. “With this critical funding, there are employees on the job today who are working more efficiently, productively and safely.”

Grant applications for the FY09 funding round will be available to employers and labor organizations starting in October. Additional application information will be available through the DIA website, www.mass.gov/dia and through the state’s Operational Services Division, www.mass.gov/osd.

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